

**PATENT APPLICATION**  
**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of

Docket No: Q76299

Toshiaki MIZUNO, et al.

Appln. No.: Unknown

Confirmation No.: Unknown

Group Art Unit: Unknown

Filed: June 26, 2003

Examiner: Unknown

For: DRAINING DEVICE AND LENS PROCESSING SYSTEM HAVING THE SAME

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date for an application other than a continued prosecution application (CPA) under §1.53(d); (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
Attorney Docket No.: Q76299

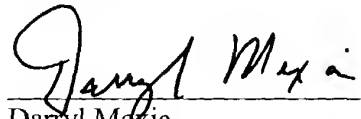
In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant submits the following explanations:

**USP No. 5,716, 256 corresponds with Japanese Patent Publication No. 9-253999.**

**USP No. 6,427,094 corresponds with Japanese Patent Publication No. 11-287972.**

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Date: June 26, 2003

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| Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO<br><br><b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br/>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b><br><br><i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i> |         |    |   | <i>Complete if Known</i> |                 |  |
|  |         |    |   | Application Number       | Unknown         |  |
|  |         |    |   | Confirmation Number      | Unknown         |  |
|  |         |    |   | Filing Date              | June 26, 2003   |  |
|  |         |    |   | First Named Inventor     | Toshiaki MIZUNO |  |
|  |         |    |   | Art Unit                 | Unknown         |  |
| Examiner Name  | Unknown |    |   |                          |                 |  |
| Attorney Docket Number   | Q76299  |    |   |                          |                 |  |
| Sheet  | 1       | of | 1 |                          |                 |  |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS |                          |                 |  |                                |   |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--|--------------------------------|---|
| Examiner<br>Initials* | Cite<br>No. <sup>1</sup> | Document Number |  | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document |
|                       |                          | Number          | Kind<br>Code <sup>2</sup><br><i>(if known)</i> |                                |   |
|                       |                          | US 5,716,256    | A  | 02-10-1998                     | Mizuno et al.                                   |
|                       |                          | US 6,427,094    | B1   | 07-30-2002                     | Mizuno  |
|                       |                          | US 6,159,072    | A  | 12-12-2000                     | Shibata   |
|                       |                          | US 6,379,215    | B1   | 04-30-2002                     | Mizuno et al.                                   |
|                       |                          | US              |  |                                |   |
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|                       |                          | US              |  |                                |   |
|                       |                          | US              |  |                                |   |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS |                          |                              |                     |   |                                |  |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Examiner<br>Initials*    | Cite<br>No. <sup>1</sup> | Foreign Patent Document      |                     |   | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Translation <sup>6</sup> |
|                          |                          | Country<br>Code <sup>3</sup> | Number <sup>4</sup> | Kind Code <sup>5</sup><br><i>(if known)</i> |                                |  |                          |
|                          |                          | JP                           | 9-253999            | A   | 09-30-1997                     | Japan  |                          |
|                          |                          | JP                           | 11-287972           | A   | 10-19-1999                     | Japan  |                          |
|                          |                          |                              |                     |   |                                |  |                          |
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|                          |                          |                              |                     |   |                                |  |                          |

| OTHER ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS |                          |  |                          |
|---|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Examiner<br>Initials*                       | Cite<br>No. <sup>1</sup> | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published. | Translation <sup>6</sup> |
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|--------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Examiner Signature |  | Date Considered |  |
|--------------------|--|-----------------|--|

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov), MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.